

Appln No. 10/527,348
Amdt date July 3, 2007
Reply to Office action of April 3, 2007

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 33 (Cancel)

34. (Currently Amended) ~~The seat assembly as claimed in claim 33,~~ A seat assembly for a motor vehicle seat, comprising

- a seat frame which defines a seat surface for a motor vehicle occupant, and
- a pivotably mounted backrest which is foldable about a pivot axis onto the seat surface,
wherein the pivot axis is movable along a predetermined path when the backrest is folded
forward onto the seat surface, wherein
- the pivotably mounted backrest is adjustable in its inclination and has a front side serving
to support a seat user's back, and the seat assembly further comprising
- a spring arrangement having at least one elastic element with which the backrest is
prestressed elastically such that it is biased to pivot forward and lean with its front side against
the seat user's back, the inclination of the backrest being adjustable counter to the action of the spring
arrangement by application of force to its front side, and the spring arrangement acting on a gear element
which is coupled to the backrest and which is assigned a locking device with which the gear element is
lockable in different positions;

wherein the gear element is part of a gear arrangement; and,
wherein the gear arrangement serves for transmitting a torque exerted on the gear element
by the spring arrangement.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~The seat assembly as claimed in claim 28,~~ A seat assembly for a motor vehicle seat, comprising

- a seat frame which defines a seat surface for a motor vehicle occupant, and

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- a pivotably mounted backrest which is foldable about a pivot axis onto the seat surface, wherein the pivot axis is movable along a predetermined path when the backrest is folded forward onto the seat surface, wherein
- the pivotably mounted backrest is adjustable in its inclination and has a front side serving to support a seat user's back, and the seat assembly further comprising
- a spring arrangement having at least one elastic element with which the backrest is prestressed elastically such that it is biased to pivot forward and lean with its front side against the seat user's back, the inclination of the backrest being adjustable counter to the action of the spring arrangement by application of force to its front side, and the spring arrangement acting on a gear element which is coupled to the backrest and which is assigned a locking device with which the gear element is lockable in different positions; and,

wherein the gear element is assigned a coupling by which the backrest is decoupled from the gear element such that the backrest is foldable forward in the direction of the seat surface of the motor vehicle seat without the gear element being moved.

36. (Previously Presented) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 35, wherein the backrest, when it is decoupled from the gear element, is decoupled from the spring arrangement, so that the spring arrangement does not act on the backrest.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~The seat assembly as claimed in claim 28,~~ A seat assembly for a motor vehicle seat, comprising

- a seat frame which defines a seat surface for a motor vehicle occupant, and
- a pivotably mounted backrest which is foldable about a pivot axis onto the seat surface, wherein the pivot axis is movable along a predetermined path when the backrest is folded forward onto the seat surface, wherein
- the pivotably mounted backrest is adjustable in its inclination and has a front side serving to support a seat user's back, and the seat assembly further comprising
- a spring arrangement having at least one elastic element with which the backrest is prestressed elastically such that it is biased to pivot forward and lean with its front side against

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the seat user's back, the inclination of the backrest being adjustable counter to the action of the spring arrangement by application of force to its front side, and the spring arrangement acting on a gear element which is coupled to the backrest and which is assigned a locking device with which the gear element is lockable in different positions; and,

wherein the gear element is assigned a coupling by which the backrest is decoupled from the gear element such that the backrest is foldable forward in the direction of the seat surface when the gear element is locked by a locking device.

38. (Currently Amended) ~~The seat assembly as claimed in claim 28,~~ A seat assembly for a motor vehicle seat, comprising

- a seat frame which defines a seat surface for a motor vehicle occupant, and
- a pivotably mounted backrest which is foldable about a pivot axis onto the seat surface,
wherein the pivot axis is movable along a predetermined path when the backrest is folded forward onto the seat surface, wherein
- the pivotably mounted backrest is adjustable in its inclination and has a front side serving to support a seat user's back, and the seat assembly further comprising
- a spring arrangement having at least one elastic element with which the backrest is prestressed elastically such that it is biased to pivot forward and lean with its front side against the seat user's back, the inclination of the backrest being adjustable counter to the action of the spring arrangement by application of force to its front side, and the spring arrangement acting on a gear element which is coupled to the backrest and which is assigned a locking device with which the gear element is lockable in different positions; and,

wherein, in order to decouple the backrest from the gear element, the pivot axis of the backrest, when the backrest is folded forward, is moved along a predetermined path which is designed such that the movement of the pivot axis along the path prevents a reaction of the pivoting movement of the backrest on the gear element.

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39. (Previously Presented) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 38, wherein the path is formed by a guide device in which the pivot axis is displaceably guided.

40. (Previously Presented) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 35, wherein the gear element is disengageable from the backrest, so that the gear element is not connected to the backrest.

41. (Previously Presented) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 39, wherein locking means are provided by which the coupling is lockable in a state in which the gear element is coupled to the backrest.

42. (Previously Presented) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 39, further comprising locking means by which the coupling is lockable in a state in which the gear element is decoupled from the backrest.

43. (Previously Presented) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 38, wherein the locking means act on the pivot axis of the backrest and prevent the movement thereof along the path.

44. (Previously Presented) The seat assembly as claimed in claim 43, wherein the locking means are formed by a lever.

45. (Currently Amended) ~~The seat assembly as claimed in claim 28,~~ A seat assembly for a motor vehicle seat, comprising

- a seat frame which defines a seat surface for a motor vehicle occupant, and

- a pivotably mounted backrest which is foldable about a pivot axis onto the seat surface, wherein the pivot axis is movable along a predetermined path when the backrest is folded forward onto the seat surface, wherein

- the pivotably mounted backrest is adjustable in its inclination and has a front side serving to support a seat user's back, and the seat assembly further comprising

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- a spring arrangement having at least one elastic element with which the backrest is prestressed elastically such that it is biased to pivot forward and lean with its front side against the seat user's back, the inclination of the backrest being adjustable counter to the action of the spring arrangement by application of force to its front side, and the spring arrangement acting on a gear element which is coupled to the backrest and which is assigned a locking device with which the gear element is lockable in different positions; and,

wherein the locking device of the gear element has a primary locking element and a secondary locking element, the primary locking element, in the locked state, acting on the gear element and the secondary locking element blocking the primary locking element in the locked state.

Claims 46 - 49(Cancel)